

**Draft Summary of the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting  
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)  
April 22, 2002**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group on April 22, 2002 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	Potential Key Observation Points (KOP) Locations

### **Introduction**

Attendees were welcomed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

### **Action Items – March 25, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting**

A summary of the March 25, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

- Action Item #LU27:** Obtain Butte County Bicycle Plan for inclusion in SP-L3.  
Status: Mark Greenig (EDAW) acquired the Butte County Bicycle Plan from the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG).
- Action Item #LU32:** Distribute list of available GIS data to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group.  
Status: Jim Martin (DWR) has an inventory list of available GIS data and has reviewed the DWR's intranet site that currently houses the GIS data available for the project. Jim plans on coordinating with Bill Mendenhall (DWR) the GIS lead for the project, and subsequently will distribute the data list to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group.
- Action Item #LU36:** Research the expected fate of GIS effort after the relicensing process is complete.  
Status: At this time, the fate of GIS efforts after completion of the relicensing project is unknown. There is consensus among the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group that the GIS effort should continue, including data collection and maintenance. Subsequent GIS efforts will be a policy decision for DWR and could be part of the forthcoming Settlement Agreement.
- Action Item #LU37:** Distribute initial list of key observation points (KOPs) to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group.  
Status: Mark Greenig (EDAW) prepared an initial list of key observation points (KOPs), which were distributed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work

Group at the April 2002 meeting (see Attachment 4). KOPs are discussed later in this meeting.

### **Plenary Group March 2002 Meeting Update**

The Facilitator led the discussion summarizing the March 2002 Plenary Group meeting. The Plenary Group is continuing their review of the study plans. To date, approximately 50 study plans have been approved. The majority of outstanding study plans yet to be reviewed involve fishery resources; these study plans are expected to go to the Plenary Group for review in May and June 2002. Task orders for approved study plans are in the process of being prepared and work should begin soon.

The Facilitator updated the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group on the status of the Cumulative Impact Approach and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Task Force. This group continues to meet to develop a guidance document to standardize the approach for addressing cumulative impact and ESA issues. Once this approach is developed, the various Work Groups, including the Land Use Work Group, will have the opportunity to review the guidance document.

The Plenary Group also heard a report on the Interim Settlement Agreement for Riverbend Park, which is expected to be ready for signatures in May 2002. The Interim Settlement Agreement Task Force has completed its task by agreeing on the language in the Agreement. The respective Boards of Task Force participants are currently reviewing the Agreement. DWR and Feather River Recreation and Parks District (FRRPD) are negotiating the implementation document that will provide specific implementation details for the Agreement. The possibility of a rededication ceremony for the park is being considered by FRRPD.

### **GIS Update and Data Management**

Bill Mendenhall (DWR), the GIS lead for the project out of the Northern District office, led a presentation detailing the GIS and data management efforts planned for the project. He focused on three distinct components: (1) data management, (2) DWR's intra/internet site, and (3) real-time GIS applications using ArcView software.

The discussion on data management focused on the methods DWR plans to utilize to organize and manage the expansive amount of data associated with this project. The main tool that will be used is a "data profile", which is essentially a "white paper" for every GIS data set collected and/or required for the entire set of study plans. The main purpose of these profiles is to inform the different Work Groups regarding the various data collection efforts associated with each study plan, thus avoiding duplication of work efforts among the Work Groups. The entire set of data profiles is scheduled for completion by July 1, 2002. At this point, DWR manages a large data warehouse, which includes non-spatial data generated through the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) and a wide-range of spatial (GIS) data acquired through various sources. DWR intends to utilize the existing framework of the IEP for warehousing data from this project.

An overview of DWR's existing GIS intranet site was presented to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group. As an intranet site, the information on the site is only available within DWR. There are future plans to develop a public Internet site using ArcIMS software, which would allow the general public to access the GIS data available for the project. The release of the Internet site has been delayed due to security concerns, but is expected in approximately 6-8 weeks. The Internet site will contain GIS data files, as well as associated metadata. All data is projected in UTM, Zone 10, and NAD83.

The culmination of the presentation included actual GIS applications working with project area data. Color aerial photographs (1998) have been rectified and are available for the project area. Many additional years of aerial photographs are available.

Several related issues were discussed in the context of GIS. The Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group was informed that there are current GIS data collection and QA/QC efforts ongoing for the project, mainly associated with the Cultural Resources Work Group. The need to begin these efforts early in the process is based on scheduling constraints for specific study plans. Bruce Steidl voiced some concern regarding public availability of cultural resource data. Bill Mendenhall explained how the cultural data is being housed separately and the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group was assured that no sensitive cultural resource data would be made available to the public. Other GIS efforts currently underway include the development of a data coordination matrix, which shows the relationship between data needs and products for the various study plans.

Bill explained that the individual work groups are responsible for identifying questions that may potentially be addressed through the GIS data. This effort will aid the GIS technical specialists in providing the proper data to the appropriate people to support the studies.

### **Key Observation Points Identification**

Mark Greenig (EDAW) led the discussion on identifying key observation points (KOPs) for use in SP-L4 (Aesthetics). A preliminary list of potential KOPs was distributed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group (see Attachment 4). The handout organizes potential KOPs into the following categories: (1) recreation areas, (2) highways and roads, (3) other viewpoints, and (4) mitigation areas. Mark clarified to the participants that the KOPs are not solely intended to represent aesthetically pleasing views of the project area, although these types of views can help to provide FERC with a thorough visual representation of the project area. Instead, KOPs are intended to depict areas that would be potentially affected by the proposed project, either through changes in operations and/or facilities. This latter category may include potential recreation facilities, items included on the Interim Recreation Project list, and/or mitigation areas. One difficulty in identifying potential KOPs at this stage of the process is that potential mitigation areas are not yet fully known. The Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group discussed how visual simulations might be used in the future to show changes in the visual landscape associated with proposed facility improvements.

The next step in the process is for DWR and their consulting team to review the preliminary list of KOPs and refine the list based on the criteria explained above. At that point, a revised list of KOPs and map illustrating KOP locations will be presented to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group at their next Work Group meeting for further refinement. In addition, the participants were instructed to review the preliminary list of KOPs prior to the next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting to aid in the refinement process.

A concern expressed by one participant was this study would miss the spring months for photographing and evaluating KOPs. Jim Martin responded that if the task order for this study plan can be approved rapidly, there is still the potential to proceed with this study prior to summer.

### **Consistency Plan Review**

Jim Martin informed the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group that he is working closely with several other Resource Area Managers (RAMs) on the issue of identifying applicable plans to be evaluated in SP-L3, as well as discussing overlapping data needs.

**Next Meeting**

Since the next meeting agenda is relatively short, the participants agreed to hold their next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting in Sacramento during the day and provide a toll-free call-in number for those unable to attend in person. In order to facilitate the discussion on KOPs, the possibility of using video-conferencing equipment will be evaluated. The next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting will be:

Date: Monday, May 20, 2002

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Location: Sacramento, location to be determined (with potential to video link with Oroville Field Division)

**Action Items**

The following list of action items identified by the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

**Action Item #LU38:** Review and refine preliminary list of KOPs.

**Responsible:** Consultant team / DWR

**Due Date:** prior to next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting

Carry over Action Item:

**Action Item #LU32:** Distribute list of available GIS data to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group

**Responsible:** DWR Staff

**Due Date:** May 20, 2002